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The ,  
Medical Officer's  
Annual Report  
To the -  
St. Austell -  
Rural District Council

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ST. AUSTELL



1946.

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## *Medical Officer's Annual Report.*

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To the Members of the St. Austell Rural Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in once more presenting my Annual Report. The health of the District has been very satisfactory, although in the Vital Statistics, there are no outstanding figures, to which I desire to draw your attention.

Infectious diseases have been considerably less and there has been a continued freedom from Diphtheria, only two cases occurring in the area.

The greatest disappointment has been the slow progress made in the Housing schemes and the prospect for the ensuing year is not much brighter.

I am.

Your obedient Servant,

E. G. ANDREW.



## RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) 82,389.

Population (Census 1931) 20,464.

Population (estimated mid-1946) 19170.

Rateable Value £70,046.

Sum represented by a penny rate £289.

Number of inhabited houses 5924.

The greater part of the working population in the District is employed in Clay-mining and Agriculture. More labour is urgently needed in both cases, the lack of houses proving a considerable handicap. After last year's reported decrease, this year the population shows a slight increase—according to the figures supplied by the Registrar General.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population
Legitimate	163	152	315	17.8 England and Wales
Illegitimate	14	14	28	19.1 London
	177	166	343	1945 R.D.C. St. Austell 15.9.

#### STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 of total births (live & still)
Legitimate	5	7	12	41.8
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 of pop.
	5	7	12	England and Wales .75
				London .53
				.54

# DEATHS.

	M. 126	F. 126	Total 252	Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	
					13.1
				1945	11.7
				England and Wales	11.5
				London	12.7

DEATH FROM PUERPERAL SEPSIS	0
do. CAUSES	0

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Under one year)

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Legitimate	5	7	12	1946	34.9
Illegitimate	-			1945	23.5
				England and Wales	43
	5	7	12	London	41

Deaths from Measles Nil.

do. Whooping Cough 1

do. Diarrhoea (under 2) 1

Whilst the present rate of 34.9 per 1,000 live births still compares favourably with that for the whole of the country, it shows a considerable increase over the extremely low figures reported in 1945 and 1944.

Once again, no deaths from child-birth have occurred and out of the 12 infants who died, 5 died from congenital causes and 4 from premature births.

## Chief Causes of Death

	1946	1945
Heart Disease .. .. .	79	66
Intra-cranial lesions .. .. .	35	21
Cancer .. .. .	25	30
Nephritis .. .. .	11	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	9
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	9	6
Pneumonia .. .. .	2	6
Road Traffic .. .. .	5	4
Suicides .. .. .	2	2
Death from Violence .. .. .	3	0

As is usually the case, the various forms of Heart Disease account for the largest number of deaths, followed by cancer which this year takes third place, 8 % of the total.

Road traffic accidents have claimed one more victim this year.

### *Causes of Sickness in Schools.*

The health of the children, attending the various Schools in the area has been exceptionally good, there have been very few cases of infectious diseases. Whooping cough was somewhat prevalent at St. Dennis and Summercourt and there were some scattered cases of scabies and impetigo, which are gradually diminishing. Use is still being made of Newquay Urban Hostel for treatment of the above complaints.

### *Infectious Diseases.*

#### DIPHTHERIA

Two cases were reported but no death occurred. This is very satisfactory although not reaching the unique record of last year when no case was notified.

#### IMMUNIZATION.

Some 244 children were fully immunized compared with 200 during 1945. Several others received only partial immunization for a variety of reasons. These numbers are far short of what they should be, and a disappointment after all the propaganda undertaken by means of posters, cinema films, leaflets and the efforts of District Nurses. When will the Government make this prophylactic compulsory?

#### SCARLET FEVER.

Only 21 cases were notified, compared with 31 in 1945. All were of a mild type and occurred in various parts of the district. Following instructions from the Ministry of Health cases are not now generally transferred to the Isolation

Hospital, except where milk is sold from the premises, the mother is pregnant or conditions in the house are such as to preclude proper nursing. After careful statistical enquiry, it was found by the Ministry that removals to an Isolation Hospital did not show the expected improvement in incidence of the disease.

Comparing notifications received for England and Wales and for London per 1,000 of the civilian population, we find the figures for this district very satisfactory :—

St. Austell Rural	.66	England and Wales	1.38 per
London	1.42	1,000 population.	

#### MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

It is interesting to note the alternation which takes place in the reported numbers of these two diseases. Whilst in 1945 there were 408 cases of Measles and 7 of whooping cough, this year there were only two cases of Measles and 28 of Whooping Cough. Whilst too many people regard it as inevitable for children to contract these diseases and also take them too lightly, they are perhaps the most important at the present time among the diseases of childhood. Unless they are carefully nursed they may lead to serious trouble in after years. Only one death from Whooping Cough occurred and none from Measles.

#### INFLUENZA.

Three deaths were reported from Influenza.

#### PNEUMONIA.

Six cases were notified and two deaths occurred

#### ERYSIPELAS.

There were two cases.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No case was reported.

#### TYPHOID.

No case was notified



#### PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Although six cases were notified no death ensued. No doubt the pre-natal care now exercised and better conditions for confinements are responsible for fewer deaths.

#### ANTHRAX.

Several suspected cases of this disease were reported to me but fortunately all proved to be negative after tests.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Eleven cases were reported, ten Pulmonary (7 male and 3 female) and one Non-Pulmonary (female). Five deaths took place two Male and three female, all pulmonary, and four Non-pulmonary, (2 male and 2 female) About 75 % of these deaths had been notified as cases. It is difficult to exaggerate the usefulness of X-Ray photographs in the early diagnosis of this disease. Good use is made by the medical men of the neighbourhood of the St. Austell and Truro Clinics. When considered suitable, patients are sent to the County Sanatorium at Tehidy.

In all, 69 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, the great drop in Measles being chiefly responsible for the small figure, compared with the total of 1945.

#### EVACUATION.

There are only about half-a-dozen evacuees remaining, from the large influx received in the district during the war years and it is not yet certain whether they will or will not remain as permanent residents.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

I have received the following particulars from Mr. S. Rowley the Commandant of the St. Austell Detachment of the Red Cross Society. Too much praise cannot be given to him and to his staff, their duties are by no means light and are always carried out with efficiency and kindness.

St. Dennis has now its own Ambulance, which has been doing good work since the month of February.

ST. AUSTELL. — TWO AMBULANCES 1946.

Cases carried :—

Hospital	Road Accidents	Works and other Accidents	Total
499	16	37	552

Mileage 13,391                      Hours in action 958.

ST. DENNIS — ONE AMBULANCE.

(February 17th to December 31st, 1946).

Cases carried :—

Hospital	Road Accidents	Works and other Accidents	Total
52	2	16	70

Mileage 2,572                      Hours in action 186.

HOUSING.

Progress in this department of work has been very slow and the outlook is not very cheerful for the coming year. The difficulty in procuring certain necessary material together with labour shortages is responsible for much delay in achieving your programme.

No Council houses were completed during the year but three were erected by private enterprise.

68 Traditional type Council houses are under construction.

The Rural Housing survey is proceeding somewhat slowly but little use can be made in present circumstances of the data obtained, except in the case of the most urgently needed repairs.

Mr. Lawless, the Sanitary Inspector, has provided the following details giving the approximate percentage of houses, placed provisionally in the categories below :

Houses fit in all respects	21 per cent.
Houses requiring minor repairs only	20 per. cent.
Houses requiring major repairs and/or structural alterations	39 per. cent.

Houses incapable of repair at reasonable  
expense :— 20 per. cent.

*Note :—*

No mention has been made of those houses which are suitable for re-conditioning. There are so many factors entering into this, that any figure given would be of little value.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The routine examination of the private supply to the Trenance Estate at Mawgan Porth, shows it to be unreliable as regards quantity, and quality. Although they possess a chlorination apparatus—there is probably a lack of efficient supervision.

#### WATER ANALYSIS — PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

A total of 25 samples from Public Water Supplies has been taken and the result are as hereunder :—

Date	Place	Result
1946		
28th March	Grampound (Public Tap)	Satisfactory
4th July	do.	Possibility of contamination This specimen can be passed
13th December	do.	Satisfactory
29th March	High Street	Satisfactory
	do.	Satisfactory
29th March	Polgooth	Satisfactory
4th July	do.	Satisfactory, but result suggests that faecal con- tamination might recur.
13th December	do.	Some surface contamination
29th March	Trewoon	Satisfactory
4th July	do.	Very Satisfactory
28th March	Roche	Satisfactory
4th July	do.	Satisfactory
10th October	do.	Satisfactory but suggestion of possible contamination at times.
29th March	St. Columb Major	Satisfactory

4th July	do.	Definite evidence of light faecal contamination. Unfit for drinking purposes
15th July	do.	Satisfactory
10th October	do.	Satisfactory but there is possibility of intermittent contamination
28th March	St. Ewe	Slight surface contamination moderately satisfactory
4th July	do.	Satisfactory but result suggests that faecal contamination might occur
28th March	Golant (Low level)	Very satisfactory
4th July	do.	Slight contamination but there is a possibility of heavy contamination and the water is unfit for drinking purposes.
15th July	do.	Satisfactory
28th March	Golant (High level)	Satisfactory
4th July	do.	Very Good
4th July	Golant (Public Spring)	Unsatisfactory, heavy faecal contamination, unfit for drinking purposes
17th October	Foxhole	Satisfactory

Many of the supplies in the Rural District are not too satisfactory but this is gradually being remedied. During the year the water main at Hewas Water has been extended and a further extension to Lower Sticker has been begun. A chlorination plant has been installed at Hendra Pumping Station and an order has been placed for a similar plant for Trewoon. Difficulties have been experienced in the supply of water to Trelowth, Meledor and Treviscoe and schemes are being prepared for improvements at these places.

The Contract for new mains and storage reservoir at Grampound is proceeding.

Approximately 40 per. cent. of the inhabitants of the District have a public piped supply.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No material change has been effected in the sewerage of the District but a contract has been placed for the re-laying of the sewer at Grampound and many new sewerage schemes are in course of preparation. Amongst the places requiring special attention in this respect are the villages of Trewoon, Polgooth, and Goran Churchtown where the lack of sewers gives rise to the existence of many nuisances which can in no other way be abated.

## SCAVENGING.

The refuse and salvage collection services are not giving entire satisfaction, due to the inadequate size of the two vehicles engaged on this work. During the war many small hamlets received little or no service, but the inhabitants now quite justifiably expect these services, which are in consequence being strained to the limit.

The cesspool emptying vehicle is continuing to be of considerable use, not only in this district but in the neighbouring ones, the latter often calling upon it for the cleansing of overflowing cesspools, etc. It is used in maintaining our sewerage disposal works in a cleaner condition.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Through the efforts of the Ministry of Health the control of the Lane slaughterhouse has passed to the Newquay U.D.C., and your officer now assists the St. Austell U.D.C., in the work of inspection at the local slaughterhouse, doing one-third of the inspections there.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Joint Advisory Scheme is working well, and there is good liaison between the C.W.A.E.C., County Milk Officials, and your officer. This co-operation is particularly useful in the maintenance of a standard with respect to new entrants to the industry, and in securing improvements in respect of existing premises and methods of production.

## RODENT CONTROL.

There is one operative, and since the acquisition of a van he has been able to make many more inspections and treat more premises. During the year, following instructions from the Ministry of Food, test-baiting of the manholes of all the Council's sewers has been

carried out. The result showed that there was little rat infestation of the sewers, although the sewage works naturally require constant attention to keep the rat population down. Similar attention is necessary to the Council's tips, and this work has kept down the rat population at such places to a very low level.

In addition to survey work and test-baiting, the following table shows the results of the year's working.

	Estimated Kill	
No. of domestic premises treated	342	561
No. of trade premises treated	72	741
No. of Council treatments	21	1428
	<hr/> 465	<hr/> 2730

For the fore-going details of work done and schemes in preparation I am greatly indebted to Mr. R. A. Whitham, your Engineer and Surveyor, and Mr. H. B. Lawless the Sanitary Inspector, whose continued co-operation I greatly value.

During the year Mr. Down has been engaged as a Pupil Sanitary Inspector in addition to Mr. Lawless. The Council also decided that in view of the amount of work falling upon the Public Health Department an additional Sanitary Inspector should be appointed next year.

Before ending this report I should like to acknowledge once again the ready help afforded to me by the Clerk and Office staff on whose support I can always rely.





